

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-10 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4153
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5225

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, SHUM, PINT

SUBJECT: PEACE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES
OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS

REF: SANTIAGO 5190

1. INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PEACE PUBLISHED STATEMENT
DATED JULY 25 ON RECENT LISTS OF DEAD AND DISAPPEARED EXTREMISTS
(REFTEL), IN FORM OF PAID AD IN JULY 28 "EL MERCURIO". STATE-
MENT URGES CHILEANS TO "PONDER THE EXTREME GRAVITY" OF SENSATION-
ALIST PRESS ARTICLES, ORIGINATING FROM "LITTLE KNOWN SOURCES",
CONCERNING PRESUMPTIVE DEATH OF LARGE NUMBER OF CHILEANS.
FURTHER, "FRIVOLITY" WITH WHICH SANTIAGO PRESS IS TREATING THESE
REPORTS (E.G. SENSATIONALIST "LA SEGUNDA" HEADLINED ONE REPORT
"MIRISTAS ARE BEING EXTERMINATED LIKE RATS") FURTHER CONTRIBUTES
TO SUFFERING OF AFFECTED FAMILIES, AND DENIES ELEMENTAL HUMAN
DIGNITY TO WHICH ALL PERSONS ARE ENTITLED. ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING
FACTOR IS THAT "PRACTICALLY ALL" PERSONS ON THE LISTS HAVE
BEEN SUBJECTS OF HABEAS CORPUS (AMPARO) REQUESTS IN CHILEAN
JUDICIAL SYSTEM, SPONSORED BY FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE
TESTIFIED TO ARREST AND DISAPPEARANCE OF THESE PERSONS IN CHILE.

2. WHAT IS NEEDED, STATEMENT CONTINUES, IS FULL AND IMPARTIAL
INVESTIGATION BY COMPETENT CHILEAN AND FOREIGN AUTHORITIES.
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INVESTIGATION SHOULD INCLUDE CONFIRMATION OF DEATH, CAUSE OF

DEATH, AND IDENTIFICATION OF BODIES. "UNTIL THIS OCCURS, ANY STORIES ON THIS SUBJECT CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE AND MAKE MORE DESPERATE -- AND WITH NO BENEFIT TO ANYONE, INCLUDING THE PRESTIGE OF OUR COUNTRY -- THE GENUINE SORROW AND SUFFERING OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS."

3. STATEMENT CONCLUDES WITH SLAP AT "PRESS CAMPAIGNS" DESIGNED TO SLANDER THOSE LAWYERS WHO HAVE HANDLED AMPARO REQUESTS AND THOSE ORGANIZATIONS (E.E. THE COMMITTEE) WHICH HAVE AIDED FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS. STATEMENT ALSO DEFENDS COMMITTEE'S ECONOMIC RELIEF PROGRAMS.

4. COMMENT: COMMITTEE LEADERS HAD TOLD US (PARA 3, REFTEL) SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED. IT IS POLITE, BUT NO ONE WILL MISS ITS SKEPTICISM AT PUBLISHED EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DISAPPEARED PERSONS.

POPPER

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Message Attributes

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